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YELLOW FEVER;

ITS

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES:

A SERIES OF ARTICLES

PUBLISHED IN THE NEW ORLEANS BULLETIN,

DURING THE EPIDEMIC

OF 1853.

NEW ORLEANS:

PRINTED AT THE PICAYUNE OFFICE, 66 CAMP STREET.
1855.

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The following series of articles, under the heading "Yellow Fever—its Causes and Consequences," appeared in the New Orleans *Bulletin*, during the months of August and September of 1853, while the epidemic of that year was raging in this city. Prepared, as these articles were, in quick succession, with an eye to economy of newspaper space, and at intervals snatched from business, they exhibited those defects common to papers written under such circumstances. Thus while they roughly embody many of the more prominent facts, illustrative of the views they maintain, much that might have aided in influencing public opinion favorably to those views, was either overlooked or necessarily omitted. Their present publication in a collected form requires some such explanation for these faults, in considering a theme so important and suggestive, and originated in a belief that they might serve to throw some light upon a subject which, notwithstanding the fearful claims it has earned on the attention of the people of this State and City, has, until recently, been generally misunderstood.

J. G.

NEW ORLEANS, February 8th, 1855.

YELLOW FEVER;

ITS

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

No. 1.

The terrible pestilence, which, for the last sixty years, has so frequently spread death and desolation in our midst, is again amongst us. Already thousands of valuable citizens have been hurried, in the prime of life, to a loathsome and untimely grave. What the extent of this direful calamity will be, before the welcome appearance of frost, is known only to that wise and merciful Providence, in whose hands we are, and to whom we can alone look for consolation in our affliction. The mortality is without anything approaching a parallel; and there is but too much reason to fear, that before the hand of the destroying angel is stayed, ten thousand of the bone and sinew, the worth, the enterprise, and the intelligence of our devoted city will have fallen victims to his wrath; while a still greater number of widows and orphans will have been left in a state of affliction and desolation, little less pitiable than that of their departed protectors. The innumerable evils, besides, which this dreadful curse entails upon us, among which may be mentioned the suspension of trade, the stagnation of business, the general avoidance of the city on the one hand, and the no less general flight from it on the other; the immense pecuniary losses, including the depreciation of the value of property, brought about by these causes; with the blasted hopes and ruined prospects which follow; the impossibility, under such fearful circumstances, of acquiring a permanent resident population at all commensurate with our great natural advantages, or of inducing either labor or capital to make its home among us—these evils, though of the high-

est importance, considered with reference to the destinies of our city, become trivial in contemplation of the spectacles of wholesale suffering and death which are daily presented to us.

The permanent avoidance of so terrible a drawback upon our happiness and prosperity is the natural desire of all. Could it be made to appear, that the means of compassing this object are simple and sure, I need not say how decided would be the impulse of the public mind—how irresistible would be its action—in favor of their immediate employment.

The opinions in relation to the nature and attributes of yellow fever, which are entertained and promulgated by the medical faculty of New Orleans, and which, until recently, were generally acquiesced in by the people of this city, *leave us without a vestige of hope of relief from its visitations*. These opinions affirm the belief, that the malady originates amongst us, its causes being putrescent animal and vegetable matter, with the filthiness of the city, and its proximity to swamps, all acted upon by a high temperature; that it is not imported hither; that it is not contagious, or *catching*; and that the most stringent quarantine regulations would be ineffectual in securing us against its appearance in our midst, as heretofore.

It may be remarked here, that nothing is known of the nature of this disease, save what has been gathered from its effects. Did I conceive the above views to be fair deductions from these effects as they have presented themselves during a long series of years, I should quietly acquiesce in their correctness, and endeavor patiently to endure an evil, against which, it appeared, human wisdom furnished no resource. But in spite of the respect and authority with which the opinions of the Faculty of this city on this subject are naturally invested, these effects have, for many years back, been very differently interpreted by a large proportion of our people. Time, and the opportunities for further investigating the subject which it afforded, have at length brought the great mass of our citizens to conclusions regarding it, the very reverse of those promulgated by our medical men. It is now the prevailing belief among the people of New Orleans, that yellow fever does not originate in this city or its vicinity. They now believe that it is a malady almost peculiar to the seaports and towns of the West Indies and on the Ameri-

can coast within the tropics. They believe that it is in a remarkable degree contagious: that is to say, that it is susceptible of being very actively communicated to a person in good health, by a person laboring under its influence, or by a house, a vessel, or a package of merchandise, charged with its pestilential miasm. They believe that its appearance here at present, as on former occasions, is owing entirely to our unrestricted intercourse with Havana, St. Thomas, Vera Cruz, Rio Janeiro and other intertropical ports and places where the disease admittedly originates and belongs, and with other ports to which the disease has been imported, and thence transmitted abroad, in the same manner that New Orleans communicates it to the towns in the interior. They believe that, were we to follow the example which is set for us in almost every important commercial city in the world, and establish and enforce what is understood by a quarantine upon all vessels arriving here from infected ports, the city of New Orleans would enjoy as complete an exemption from yellow fever as has been enjoyed by New York for the last thirty-one years, and by Natchez for the last fifteen years.

During the Fall of 1847, while the destructive epidemic of that year was raging, the subject of yellow fever was considered by me in a series of articles, which embodied most of the prominent facts and arguments, favorable to the opinions I have just expressed. My next and succeeding numbers will be occupied with these facts and arguments, and with those which the lapse of time since 1847 has afforded, together with such explanations as the consideration of the subject may give rise to.

No. 2.

A few words in explanation of the difficulties in the way of a clear and comprehensive view of this subject, and in justice to the memory of the gentlemen who, with much labor, and in disregard of the prevailing opinions thereon, gathered and arranged many facts having a bearing upon it, may with propriety be introduced here.

The science of statistics has long since brought within the scope of its computations even the most ordinary concerns of life. It has done little or nothing, however, to aid us in our investigations into the nature and effects of yellow fever. "While volumes are heaped upon volumes," the

late Dr. Carpenter remarks, "to illustrate some trivial or obscure trait of war or diplomacy, we are left in complete ignorance in relation to circumstances affecting the welfare and involving the lives of millions." The unwillingness which, from obvious considerations, is almost invariably evinced by people and presses in this part of the Union, promptly to acknowledge the arrival in their midst of yellow fever, or other contagious diseases, renders the newspapers of the day, for the most part, meagre and unreliable sources of information *as to the origin of such diseases*; and this is the information which is the most valuable. For the little that is known on this important subject, we are chiefly indebted to the controversies which, from time to time, during the last forty years, have arisen between the medical men of New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and New Orleans, regarding the expediency of establishing quarantines at these ports respectively. The facts thus furnished, and those gleaned from history and personal observation, have been arranged and admirably illustrated by argument in two works: the one entitled "*Observations on the Yellow Fever of Natchez and of the Southwest*," published in 1842, by the late Dr. J. W. Monette, of Washington, Miss.; the other entitled "*Sketches from the History of Yellow Fever*," &c., published in 1844, by the late Dr. W. M. Carpenter, of New Orleans. When the ports of the Southwest shall hereafter be guarded, as they assuredly will be, from the approach of this as well as other contagious maladies of foreign origin, by appropriate sanitary restrictions on our inward commerce, and when the result will prove the correctness of the opinions put forth and so ably sustained by these gentlemen, that yellow fever does not originate in New Orleans, that it is always imported hither, and that it is eminently transmissible, the credit will justly attach to their memory, and their claims to a grateful recollection will be fully acknowledged by generations yet unborn.

With the data furnished by these two works, and the few facts which I have been enabled to gather in relation to the epidemics of the last few years, I proceed to adduce the arguments in favor of the opinion, *that yellow fever has not a local origin in this city or its vicinity.*

"Dr. Rush," remarks Monette, "is the great father of the doctrine of the local origin of yellow fever, from putrescent matters, and city filth. The doctrine taught by Dr. Rush on this subject, enforced and promulgated as it was by his popularity and talents, has, doubtless, been the

destruction of thousands. Had it not been for his influence in the medical community of the United States, our Northern seaports would not have been so long subjected to the pestilential visitations of yellow fever. New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, and other ports of less note, would have protected their citizens by judicious quarantines, at least twenty years sooner than they did. The Southern ports, still acknowledging a vassalage to his authority, and to his arbitrary dictation, through his disciples, to this day immolate hundreds of thousands of victims upon the altar of a blind credulity."

Yet it appears that this same Dr. Rush declared before dying, that he had always considered yellow fever to be contagious, and that in promulgating contrary opinions, he had yielded to *certain considerations!* "Whether," observes Dr. Carpenter, "Dr. Rush regarded the introduction of the disease as unavoidable, and hoped to disarm it of a portion of its terrors when it occurred; whether he was influenced by motives of policy, or what else soever may have been these *considerations*, certain it is that the opinion thus inculcated has been mainly instrumental in causing, for so long a time, the neglect of all measures of precaution, and subjecting our cities to the terrible ravages of this worst of plagues."

The remarks of Dr. Carpenter upon the doctrine of local origin are in themselves a complete refutation of the theory. "If marsh air, miasm, filth, heat," &c., he goes on to say, "are the requisites necessary to the introduction of the disease, it should always occur when these concur. But the cities are just as filthy, as marshy, the air as much charged with bad odors, marsh air, and miasm, and equally hot, during those years when the disease does not occur, as during the worst epidemic seasons." If these causes are capable of producing yellow fever, why did it not occur in Charleston, Philadelphia, New York, or any of the towns of the United States between the years 1762 and 1791? Why not in New Orleans up to the year 1796? And why not in New York or Philadelphia since 1822? For, during these periods, when the disease did not occur, we can conceive of nothing capable of modifying the local condition in which the disease is supposed to take its origin. Why does it not begin its ravages in the back parts of New Orleans, and why formerly, did it not begin in the middle of New York, the dirtiest parts, respectively, of these cities; and why does it always show itself in, and spread among the shipping, then to parts of the city nearest to sickly ships?"

But this branch of the subject cannot be fully considered in this number without trespassing too largely upon your space. It will be continued in my next.

No. 3.

The space to which you are compelled to limit me, in the consideration of this subject, is hardly sufficient for the purpose. I am, therefore, unwilling to spare any of it for incidental discussion. I make this explanation, to avoid the supposition of a want of respect for the enquiries of the *Delta* of Saturday, which my silence might otherwise imply. I will add that these, and all other enquiries on the subject, will find what I trust may prove satisfactory answers in the course of the discussion.

To the opinion that "yellow fever cannot spread in high situations, but is dependent on low and flat countries, or unhealthy wharves," Dr. Carpenter replies :

"If this be the case, and an unhealthy or marshy situation is requisite, how does it occur in Portland, Me., the Bay of St. Louis, in Pensacola, with its clear, sandy beach, its pure springs, and its dry, hilly, pine barrens, affording, perhaps, the most salubrious climate of any town on our continent? How in the mountain site of Medina Sidonia, Ronda, and Ubrique, in the heights of St. Roque; the barren and mountainous island of Ascension; the barren and elevated rocks of Curacoa, Cadiz, and Lisbon; the sea-girt and lofty rock of Gibraltar? All of these places, fanned by the refreshing breezes from the sea, are remarkable for the salubrity and purity of their air, and the mere supposition of miasm and putrid exhalations in such situations, would be preposterous. Still, when the yellow fever is carried by commerce to these places, it is in no degree less terrible than in the low and marshy situations of New Orleans, Mobile, and Charleston."

On the opinion that the malady is always produced by local causes, the Doctor makes the following commentary :

"If this be so, why has it never been known to occur in Natchez, Vicksburg, Rodney, Bayou Sara, Port Hudson, Baton Rouge, Plaquemines, Alexandria, Opelousas, Franklin, St. Martinsville, New Iberia, Donaldsonville, or any of the towns of the interior which trade with

New Orleans, in those numerous years when it did not occur in that city? And why is it, when it does occur in those towns, it does not appear until after it has been prevailing in New Orleans from fifteen to thirty days at least? Why has it never been known to occur in Augusta, except when Charleston has first suffered? Why has it never been known to occur in the innumerable interior towns of Andalusia, in Spain, except on particular occasion when the great commercial sea ports of Cadiz, Seville, and Barcelona have received the infection of disease from abroad, and been ravaged by the terrible pestilence? And why, as in other cases, did the interior cities suffer, only after the prevalence, during some time, of the disease in the seaports."

Great rains are regarded as unfavorable to the appearance and spread of yellow fever. The summers of 1837 and 1843, during each of which an epidemic raged in New Orleans, were very rainy. The quantity of rain which has fallen this summer, exceeds that of any previous one for many years.

A high temperature is considered a requisite to the production of yellow fever: the degree of heat measurably determining the intensity of the disease. But according to the authorities before us, neither the occurrence nor the violence of the disease has any direct relation to this cause. The temperature of this summer has been much lower than that of any previous one for the last fifteen years.

Some believe that the occurrence of yellow fever is attributable to the stagnation of the atmosphere, from the absence, for a certain period, of fresh breezes. Upon this is founded the opinion that hurricanes and fevers do not prevail the same year. Now it is well known that severe gales have frequently preceded the appearance of yellow fever, here and elsewhere, and that while, besides, they have often occurred during the prevalence of an epidemic, they have had little or no effect in checking its ravages.

In the Report of the Board of Health on "the Sanitary Condition of the City of New Orleans, during the year 1846, and the means of improving it," the yellow fever which appeared that year is, as usual in such instruments, declared to have been "local in its origin." It is attributed to our "vicinity to swamps," "the filth of the streets," "the animal and vegetable matter on the banks of the river," "bad drinking water," "the stagnant and putrid water in vacant lots," &c.

The Report closes on this part of its subject, with the declaration, that the removal of these "known causes" of the disease will render New Orleans "as healthy as any city on this continent from January to December."

Since the year 1846 our city has experienced great and manifold improvements. Miles of square and round paving have been laid down, where previously the streets in wet weather were one continued mud track, more resembling abandoned and half-filled canals, than highways. Large spaces of ground on the river banks, formerly regarded as special laboratories of pestilence, are now covered with blocks of brick stores. Thousands of rotten shanties, standing in muddy frog ponds, have given place to stately edifices, erected on well filled, paved lots. The wharves have undergone great improvements, equally favorable to business and to health. The swamps in the rear of the city have been deeply penetrated by a number of streets, rendering much more efficient our system of drainage, which has delivered from stagnant water and rotten vegetation additional thousands of acres of their surface. The lapse of time brought about, in a material degree the recommended beneficial changes, which we were assured were to render our city perfectly free from yellow fever. In fact, until the present epidemic began to spread, many of our citizens, misled by the erroneous views promulgated as to the causes of the fever, and by the assurances referred to, supposed that we were henceforth to enjoy a complete exemption from such visitations. Yet, in spite of all these ameliorations, in spite of the facts that the temperature of this summer has been unusually low—that we have had more rain than on any similar occasion, experiencing, as we do, almost daily showers, and, in consequence of this rain, that the people have had a plentiful supply of fresh drinking water—that the streets have been cleaner than they were ever known to be before—that the swamps are covered with water comparatively fresh from the heavens, and that the vegetation there is still green and full of life—in spite of a combination of circumstances nearly approaching that which we were taught to regard as the one which would give us a complete exemption from an epidemic, we are now writing under the inflictions of one, unprecedented for its prevalence and malignity.

The subject will be further considered in my next.

No. 4.

In my last two articles, I gave the reasons which impel me to believe that yellow fever does not originate in this city or its vicinity. This branch of the subject may be profitably considered in connection with another already stated: *that the yellow fever is a disease peculiar to certain seaports and towns in the West Indies, and on the American coasts within the tropics, and that it is eminently transmissible and contagious.*

Yellow fever is believed to be a disease of modern origin, dating from about the year 1690. The seeds of this malady are supposed to have been brought in that year from the empire of Siam to Martinique, in a squadron of French men-of-war. The pestilence spread to the shipping then lying in Port Royal, and from thence to the towns of the West Indies. For nearly a century this disease, which was known by the name of *Mal de Siam*, existed in the West India Islands and along the coast of Mexico and South America, and occasionally in all the principal ports of Europe and America having commercial intercourse with the Western world. After the year 1792 it assumed a type more malignant than ever, in consequence of the introduction of a pestilential disease into the West India Islands from Boullam, a projected English colony on the coast of Africa, by a squadron of English ships. The disease which thereafter appeared epidemically, was long called *Fievre de Boullam*, or *Bulam fever*, and finally the name yellow fever was adopted.

From the period of the discovery of the Western world, until the year 1690, the intercourse between Europe and the Northern parts of the American continent and the West Indies and Mexico, was very great, Yet up to the latter period, history makes no mention of a pestilence, which like that in question, was harmless to the native or acclimated, but fraught with death to the foreigner or unacclimated. Thence forward, as this intercourse increased, an examination of facts will show that the disease was communicated occasionally, with fearful effects, to nearly all the commercial ports of the world, and from these to places adjacent, while on the other hand, those cities remote from the sea board, and otherwise guarded from communication with places where the infection had a primary or secondary existence, enjoyed an entire exemption from such visitations."

It is equally susceptible of proof that all those places which suffered from an unrestricted intercourse with infected ports, and which at length

adopted the quarantine as a measure of safety, have since enjoyed, almost without exception, a perfect immunity from epidemics of the disease. Up to the year 1822, New York and Philadelphia were frequently the scenes of yellow fever. The quarantine policy previously existing at these cities was superseded that year by one much more rigid in its regulations, since which no epidemic of yellow fever has been experienced in either, and it is doubtful if even a case of the kind has been seen within their limits.

The city of Natchez, which previously to 1839 was dreaded equally with New Orleans on the score of yellow fever, established a quarantine about that time; since which, until this summer, there has never been an epidemic there, nor a single case of yellow fever that could not be traced to direct importation from some place already infected, or to infection from such importation. And as regards the appearance of yellow fever there this summer, the first intimation of the fact which reached us through the papers, was coupled with the information that all the first cases were *recent arrivals from this city*. I am informed, upon what I deem reliable authority, that long before the Natchez quarantine (which is not in operation except during a sickly season here) was re-established there this summer, a number of cases of yellow fever were landed there from steamboats from this city, and conveyed to the hotels and boarding houses. The information that yellow fever exists at Natchez, at this time, would, in the absence of everything explanatory of its origin, lead us to suppose that its quarantine regulations had either been neglected or evaded. But the admissions of the newspapers of that city that the disease originated with people from New Orleans, proves this.

It is well known that hundreds of cases of yellow fever have been detained at the quarantine stations of New York and Philadelphia since 1822, and that a large number of the attending physicians, nurses, &c., there have, from time to time, contracted the disease. In the year 1839 there were, at one time, 19 cases of yellow fever at the Quarantine Hospital on Staten Island. On a previous occasion, the number of cases at the same place, during one month, was 29, of which 21 died, 14 of black vomit. This at once attests the wisdom of restriction, and the terrible consequences which would have so frequently followed its absence. There is hardly a seaport on our coast, from Portland in Maine, to Galveston in Texas, inclusive, where yellow fever has not prevailed at one time or an-

other. The principal of these, including New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, Mobile, and New Orleans, have been frequently and fearfully visited. Those who have adopted efficient quarantine regulations have thenceforward been secured from the sickness; while those who have disregarded the means of preserving themselves, continue to suffer the dreadful consequences of their neglect.

No one visitation of this kind has ever occurred in any port or place in the United States, that, with all the facts before us, could not be clearly traced to communication with some port or place where the disease really had a local origin, or with some port or place to which it had been communicated.

If, as is contended, the disease originates from marsh miasm, decomposed vegetable matter, &c., like causes would produce like effects in cities remote from the great avenues of commerce, but possessing the supposed additional prerequisites of the disease, a high temperature. But we find that while Portland, Me., Boston, Mass., New Haven, Conn., New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Savannah, Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, and a large number of intermediate ports on our sea board have been frequently decimated by yellow fever; such inland cities as Augusta, Me., Concord, N. H., Salem, Mass., Hartford, Conn., Albany, Utica, Rochester, Buffalo, N. Y., Trenton, N. J., Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pa., Washington, D. C., Richmond and Williamsburg, Va., Raleigh, N. C., Milledgeville, Geo., and thousands of other populous towns, similarly secured by local position from the reach of the infection, have yet to experience the horrors of such a visitation. In like manner, while, since the year 1817, yellow fever has been communicated from this city to the towns on the waters of the Mississippi and the Ohio, as far up as St. Louis and Pittsburg, and has existed epidemically in nearly all of them below the mouth of the Ohio, the cities of Dayton, O., Fredericksburg, Va., Lexington, Ky., Indianapolis, Ia., Springfield, Ill., Nashville, Tenn., Jackson, Miss., and the numerous thriving cities and towns in the interior of these States, have never experienced the disease.

No. 5.

Yellow fever is endemic only in those places where ice never appears, or where a temperature of 32° Fahr. is never experienced. As remarked

by Dr. Monette, "it may be transported, like tropical plants, to a more Northern climate; but the frosts of our winters will utterly destroy it, and it must be annually renewed. Without this annual transplanting or renewal in our climate, it would die and become extinct. But the constant communication with inter-tropical ports serves to keep up the annual supply of this exotic."

And herein is adduced one of the very few facts in relation to this disease which does not admit of debate or argument, and this is, that a temperature of 32° Fahr. utterly destroys its infection. A temperature so low is never experienced in those ports or places where the disease is endemic. To this fact, in connection with others not so clearly recognizable, may be ascribed the constant existence, either in a latent or active state of the disease in those places. Upon this fact, may we also rest the assumption that without the seeds of the disease are transmitted thence to places where such a low temperature is annually experienced, the disease will never appear in such places. Having ice here, and in Mobile and Charleston every winter, we need no other fact to satisfy us that yellow fever is an exotic in those places, transported hither on the wings of commerce, and that when it appears in either or all of them, the circumstance is always traceable to an inter-tropical origin. Charleston, having recently taken some steps to guard her citizens from yellow fever, New Orleans and Mobile are the only important ports on our Atlantic seaboard which are left entirely unguarded against the introduction of the disease, and in consequence they are the only ones which suffer from such visitations.

Yellow fever, then, is regarded as a specific disease, and, as purely and simply an inter-tropical one. "It prevails," says Dr. Carpenter, "almost perpetually near the Equator, where the temperature of winter is rarely low enough to destroy the infection; and it is carried, by commerce, to the countries lying North, during the portion of the year between February and November, and to the regions to the Southward, from August to May. Thus in Surinam and Demarara, it is indifferent as to the season; in Campeachy, Vera Cruz, and Havana it begins from February to May; in the United States, from June to October; while at Pernambuco and Rio Janerio, it prevails generally from November to May."

All the efforts which have hitherto been made within the tropics to check its progress, have proved unavailing. But every such well directed

effort, made at places North and South of this region, has been attended with complete success.

In view of what appears to me to be the irresistible array of facts that force themselves upon the notice of any one who, even cursorily, examines the subject, I sometimes doubt that those most prominent in the advocacy of the doctrine of "local origin," in the United States, are sincere believers in its truth. Let me not be understood as charging such with the unqualified wickedness which this suspicion, taken in its broadest sense, would imply. I mean that, like the great father of this doctrine, Dr. Rush, they believe that the evil is unavoidable, and that a correct knowledge of its nature and attributes by the people, would render them, on occasions of its occurrence, deaf to the appeals of humanity, in an absorbing regard for their personal safety. Controversies on the subject often shadow forth these opinions, in a manner more or less distinct. Occasionally, however, they are openly avowed. The most recent instance of this kind that caught my notice, is furnished in page 29 of a work entitled, "Hastings on yellow fever," published in 1848, with the recommendations of distinguished members of the medical profession, in which the author, having rather vaguely given in his adhesion to the non-contagionists, closes a paragraph with the following declaration :

"Humanity, even, demands that the idea of contagion should be eschewed by the profession, IN EVERY EPIDEMIC DISORDER, unless it be so beyond the shadow of a doubt; since it calls forth the worst features of the human heart in its ungovernable terror, and causes even the mother to desert her dying child, and the sick to languish uncared for and shunned."

I am no admirer of "pious frauds," nor a believer in the propriety of doing evil in the expectation of a good result. Such artifices seldom fail of producing consequences the reverse of those intended, and the case in point is a striking illustration of the fact. The doctrine of "local origin," inducing a belief that yellow fever is not imported here, nor communicable, leads people to disregard all precautions against its dissemination, and unnecessarily to expose themselves to its influence, and thus to extend the area of its destructive operations.

I moreover regard the views expressed in the sentences quoted as doing great injustice to human nature. Let us, in illustration of this, take New Orleans as the source of our reflections : and where could we find a field more appropriate for the purpose—embracing, as it does, people

of every degree of condition and intelligence—of every kind of pursuit, and from almost every part of the globe—whose benevolence and fortitude are constantly subjected to the most fearful tests that pestilence can present. In spite of the inculcations of the Faculty here, the mass of the unacclimated instinctively feel that yellow fever is communicable, or catching. Chiefly, if not entirely from this cause, a large proportion of our unacclimated people never pass a summer here; and on the approach of an epidemic, all the rest, not compelled by controlling considerations to remain, immediately leave the city. But where among those of our unacclimated citizens who witnessed the destructive career of this and previous epidemics, were the “worst feelings of the human heart,” or that “ungovernable terror” displayed? What mother in our midst has “deserted her dying child?” Where are the instances of the sick having been left “to languish uncared for and shunned by friends and relatives?” Human nature has doubtless much to answer for: the pride of opinion—the lust of gain—sometimes close up the avenues to the heart as effectually as any other human emotion can do; but there are many considerations that seldom fail to render it superior to the fear of death, and at the promptings of duty, to make it even rush into the jaws of the fell destroyer. The occasion has yet to come, when the claims, not only of affection, but of common humanity, will be disregarded by the people of New Orleans, whether acclimated or not.

No. 6.

It is to commerce with the West Indies and other inter-tropical ports, and to this alone, that we may rightly ascribe the introduction of yellow fever into this and other ports of the United States. There never was an epidemic of this disease in any of our ports having no communication either with inter-tropical ports or with ports in which the disease had been introduced.

To render this apparent, let us note the instances of the occurrence of yellow fever in New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, respectively, during the last hundred and fifty years, as we find them stated at length in the authorities already referred to. It will be seen that whenever the

commerce of those cities with the West Indies was uninterrupted, the disease was constantly among them; and that the effect of those restrictions and suspensions of this commerce which occasionally occurred during this period was, to prevent the appearance of the disease in their midst.

During this lapse of time, the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Charleston have not been equally subject to visitations from yellow fever. For long periods they have been almost annually subject to the disease; and then again, during long spaces of time, they have escaped these visitations. These alternations of exemption and of liability were the results of laws or treaties which protected or discouraged, or the wars which prostrated the commerce of these cities.

As early as 1660, the domestic and foreign commerce of the North American colonies became so extensive, and competed so successfully with those of England, as to excite the jealousy of that nation, and to originate the odious navigation act of that year, the object of which was to secure the monopoly of the trade of the colonies to the mother country. In spite of this act, a trade sprang up about the beginning of the eighteenth century between the colonies and the British West Indies, the former sending lumber, staves, fish, flour, corn and rice, in exchange for the sugar, molasses and rum of the latter.

Scarcely was this trade established, when the yellow fever began to make its visits to the commercial cities of the British colonies. Previous to 1724 there were two epidemics in Charleston. By the year 1740, yellow fever was introduced there frequently, and finally almost annually. The influence of this trade on Philadelphia, in introducing yellow fever there, began to appear in 1732. Subsequently, epidemics of that disease became almost as frequent as at Charleston. New York began its trade with the West Indies at a later period than the former cities, and was for some time less subject to the visitations of yellow fever.

Now each of these cities existed many years before a case of yellow fever occurred among them. It was only after the commencement of this commerce with the West Indies that they became subject to the disease.

The principle of commercial monopoly embodied in the navigation act of 1660, became, by subsequent enactments, so oppressive to the colonial commerce, that by the year 1750, it had ruined the trade between the

colonies and the West Indies. The consequence was that the yellow fever ceased to appear in the ports of the former; and it did not occur in Charleston after 1755, nor in New York or Philadelphia after 1762, so long as the navigation laws were in force, which were only interrupted by the war of the revolution; and this, of course, likewise prevented this trade. No sooner was peace established, than our commerce with the West Indies revived, and in 1791 the yellow fever appears in New York; in 1793 in New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, and all these three cities were again subject to almost annual epidemics of this disease.

Thus the thirty years, or more, of suspended commerce with the West Indies passed without the occurrence of a case of yellow fever in New York, Philadelphia or Charleston; whereas, during the time their West India trade flourished, they were constantly experiencing such visitations.

After the revolution, the trade of these cities with the West Indies continued prosperous and uninterrupted until 1807, when the embargo was laid. During this period of prosperity, New York had been visited by yellow fever nine times, Philadelphia seven times and Charleston ten times.

The several measures of embargo and non-intercourse continued until the opening of the war with Great Britain, which lasted until 1815. Here we have a period of eight years, during which the trade of these cities with the West Indies was entirely prostrated; but they were also entirely exempt from visitations of yellow fever.

On the re-establishment of commerce, by the peace of 1815, our trade with the West Indies and other inter-tropical ports had its usual effect of introducing yellow fever in most of our principal seaports. In the year 1817, it was introduced into Charleston, Baltimore and Philadelphia, and in 1819 into New York. After this time, New York and Philadelphia were regularly subject to epidemics of yellow fever until 1822.

The particulars of the epidemic of that year, which prevailed at New York, (published at length by Dr. Townsend) are worthy of special notice. During the summer there arrived at port 71 vessels from the West Indies, having in all 56 cases of yellow fever on board at the time of their arrival at quarantine. Besides these, there was the United States brig *Enterprise*, and other infected vessels, from New Orleans and Pensacola. Between the 1st and 9th of July, 24 large lighter loads of freight were landed at the wharf at the foot of Rector street from four Ha-

vana vessels, all of which had yellow fever on board. On the 10th of July the disease appeared simultaneously in the two houses which face each corner, forming the two corners in which Rector street terminates at the wharf. These two houses were about fifty feet from where the lighters discharged. In one a grocery was kept, and the clerk, named Thomas, was the first resident attacked. In the other corner was the establishment of a cooper, named Reder, who had been engaged in repairing the boxes, barrels, &c., which contained the landed freight. His two little daughters—one eleven, the other nine years old—had been much with him during his work on the boxes, &c., at the wharf, and all three were taken sick on the same day. On the 16th, Thomas died with the black vomit. On the 15th, the youngest girl died with the black vomit. On the 15th, John Reder, brother to the girls, was taken sick, and died on the 27th with black vomit. On the 20th, a little girl, daughter of Mr. Rose, who played with the Reder girls, sickened, and in a few days died with black vomit. On the 24th and 25th, four new cases occurred in the same house with the last. In this way the disease was traced from family to family, as the result of communication, until the epidemic became general.

During the year 1822, New York and Philadelphia, respectively, established new quarantine regulations, much more rigid than those which had previously existed. Since that time, yellow fever has been totally unknown in these cities. It has, however, been annually brought to their quarantine stations, has sometimes spread in their quarantine establishments, and it is only by the greatest strictness that it has been prevented from reaching these cities. Baltimore, that had, previously to 1822, been frequently the victim of yellow fever epidemics, also adopted quarantine regulations that year. I am not aware that it has experienced any such visitations since. Charleston, however, neglected until within the last few years, to take efficient means to prevent the introduction of yellow fever; and, in consequence, the disease has existed there on nine or ten occasions, between the years 1822 and 1843.

No. 7.

In my last I endeavored to show, that it was to commerce with the West Indies that Philadelphia, New York, and Charleston were in-

debted for the yellow fever which has occasionally prevailed in each of these cities. The influence of commerce in introducing yellow fever into New Orleans, and thence spreading the disease to the towns on the banks of the Mississippi, will be even more strikingly illustrated by an examination of the facts.

The first epidemic of yellow fever that ever occurred in New Orleans, was in 1796. "It was traced to the vessel that brought it." In 1799 it again appeared here, under circumstances which were regarded as "proof of its importation."

The trade of this city, prior to the cession of Louisiana in 1803, was very limited; and to this we may ascribe its previous exemption from yellow fever; for while, between the years 1799 and 1803, New Orleans was entirely free from such visitations, Charleston had been so visited three times, and Philadelphia and New York, each twice.

The commerce of New Orleans with the West Indies, being chiefly with the Spanish Islands, was only interfered with by the embargo from 1807 to 1809, and by the war from 1812 to 1815. During these three years of trade with these Islands, viz: from the Spring of 1809 to 1812, New Orleans experienced two epidemics, one in 1809 and the other in 1811; while the commercial cities of the North, whose trade with the West Indies was entirely interrupted, had no yellow fever at all.

Yellow fever did not appear in New Orleans during those years that the embargo operated against her commerce, nor during the war. But no sooner was peace declared, than she became the centre of an active commerce, especially with the West Indies; and with the revival of commerce, yellow fever again made its appearance in her midst.

In the year 1817, yellow fever was introduced here from Havana by the British cutter *Phoenix*, which arrived here on the 18th June, with some of her crew sick. It became epidemic in July, and was deplorably fatal. In consequence of the positive proofs of the importation of the disease on this occasion, the Legislature of the succeeding winter passed an imperfect quarantine law, which was repealed, however, the succeeding session, without any good reason.

This year is rendered doubly memorable, as the one in which steam-boats were first introduced on the river, and in which yellow fever made its first appearance in our river towns. Previously to this time,

the commerce between this city and the towns watered by the Mississippi, was in flatboats down the river, and in keel-boats and barges up stream. A barge would be thirty days from New Orleans to Natchez. The means of communication were thus too limited and slow to transmit infection; and hence the immunity which these towns had hitherto enjoyed from yellow fever.

After the disease of this year had existed in the city for some time, the steamboat *Washington* left here, and arrived, early in September, at Natchez, with persons on board ill of yellow fever, some of whom were landed. Several young men of Natchez, who went on board the steamer, contracted the disease and died of it. The disease spread rapidly, and with destructive malignity. All who could, fled. The number of deaths there, by this epidemic, was one hundred and thirty-four.

The disease was this year communicated to people at Witzel's Landing, twenty miles below Natchez, by a steamboat from New Orleans.

In June, 1819, several vessels, with crews sick with yellow fever entered this port from Havana and Martinique; and about the first of July, cases appeared among the shipping. The disease became epidemic before the middle of August; its malignity defied skill and attention, and before its close multitudes perished.

By this time the arrival at Natchez of steamboats from New Orleans became so common, that the origin of the fever in Natchez, in 1819, was not traced to any particular one. It began on the 4th September, and continued to prevail until two hundred persons had fallen victims to its fury.

About the 20th July, 1820, it became known that cases of fever had appeared in this city; Dr. Davidson was desired by the Mayor to examine into the matter. The Doctor reported the arrival of two vessels; one from Havana on the 17th June, and the other from Matanzas on the 16th July. The vessel from Havana had lost two men on her passage, and the one from Matanzas two more, and having others on board sick with yellow fever. The disease became epidemic in the city between the first and middle of August.

On the 22d November, of this year, Gov. Villere, in his valedictory address to the Legislature, strongly recommended the establishment of a quarantine against yellow fever. The same policy was urged upon

the State Legislature by Governor Robertson, in his inaugural message, delivered on the succeeding 18th of December. Accordingly, in the February following, the Legislature passed a code of quarantine regulations, "for the protection of Louisiana against the importation of yellow fever and other infectious diseases." As the operation of this quarantine has been the subject of much misconception—quoted as it is every day as an all-sufficient argument against the efficiency of such institutions—it is time that the public should be correctly informed on the subject. But the history of our quarantine must be considered in connection with the epidemics which prevailed during its existence, and as incidental to the subject which has engaged this and the two preceeding articles; and as this cannot be compassed in the present number, it will form the subject of my next.

No. 8.

The believers in the "local origin" of yellow fever, declare that they have no faith in the efficacy of quarantine regulations, here or elsewhere; that the trial of a quarantine which was formerly established here, demonstrated the utter inefficiency of such institutions. It is true that the code of quarantine regulations, passed by the Legislature of this State in 1821, did not result satisfactorily. The epidemics of 1822, 1823 and 24, occurred while this quarantine was in operation. But this, so far from furnishing the believers in the "local origin" doctrine with new facts in support of their theories, had results of a nature directly the reverse. For, although these quarantine regulations were erroneously framed and feebly administered, they enabled us, more determinately than at any period before or since their creation, to trace an epidemic to a foreign source. Here is a brief view of the facts in support of this statement, which we find in a more extended form in Dr. Carpenter's work already referred to:

About the middle of August, 1822, yellow fever, from Havana, was communicated to Pensacola. From this place, it was introduced into New Orleans, about the 21st of August, by two sloops, the *Ann* and the *Eliza*, both crowded with passengers who were flying from the fever. Some of these passengers were sick when they embarked,

others sickened and died on the passage, and nearly all the remainder, after having landed in this city, died of the disease. These vessels reached the city by way of the Lakes and the Bayou St. John, and consequently eluded the quarantine officers, *none of whom were stationed in that direction.*

The first cases that occurred here among our citizens, in the year 1822, were traced to infection from the passengers above mentioned.

The year following, 1823, yellow fever made its appearance in the city early in July. We are without any information as to the manner in which the contagion of this year was introduced. From its first appearance among the shipping, however, we are left to infer that it was introduced by a breach of the quarantine regulations, Dr. Forsythe, the quarantine officer had previously reported to the Board of Health of New Orleans, "that with the means placed at his disposal, it was not practicable in all cases to prevent intercourse with infected vessels, and to prevent passengers and seamen from leaving their vessels and getting to the city." He concluded by declaring that vessels were "permitted to go into port without the necessary precautions being taken," leaving it with "the Board to decide what influence vessels thus entering may have had, in producing or aggravating the malignant epidemic which afflicted the city."

In 1824, the schooner *Emigrant* arrived from Havana, and was brought to the quarantine station about the 20th of July of that year, by the towboat *Balize*. This vessel was brought up alongside the *Balize*, from the mouth of the river, to within six or seven miles of the quarantine station, when she was dropped astern, and towed up in this manner the remainder of the way. It appears that the other towboats were likewise in the habit of thus towing up alongside, vessels from ports infected with yellow fever. The health officer, on boarding the *Emigrant*, found one of her passengers dying with yellow fever, and another that had been dangerously sick of the same malady. By the affidavits subsequently taken, it appears, that during the passage up the river of the towboat *Balize* and the schooner *Emigrant*, there was no restraint upon the intercourse between the two vessels; that a number of the hands of the towboat went on board of the schooner; that they there saw the two men above referred to, who were laboring under the effects of the fever; and that three of

these hands were afterwards taken with the fever, and brought to the city. The captain and mate of the *Emigrant* also took the fever and died. Soon after, the towboat *Post Boy*, having had communication with a vessel from an infected port, bringing her up alongside from the Balize to the quarantine station, two of her hands were taken sick with the fever, and were brought to the city. About the same time, the towboat *Enterprise* brought up the schooner *Dorothy*, from Tampico, also alongside—the intercourse between the vessels during the passage being unrestrained, and having left her tow at the quarantine station, proceeded to the city.

The first cases of yellow fever that occurred this year, in New Orleans, were among hands of the towboat *Balize*.

When, as at present, we are left without the shadow of protection against the introduction of disease from abroad: when even the pretence at supervision of such introductions, only tends to mislead and to lull us into a false security, it is difficult, if not impossible, upon the sudden appearance among us of imported contagion, to furnish the public with incontestable proof of its importation. But, give us even the mockery of protection which was furnished by the quarantine regulations of 1821, and the fact that yellow fever is of foreign origin, is no longer a matter of doubt or contestation. If these regulations effected no other service, they at least enabled us to trace the epidemics of 1822 and 1824 to their respective sources. They enable us positively to prove, that the first cases of yellow fever which occurred in this city on each of these occasions, were those above mentioned; and that thenceforward, the disease spread rapidly among the inhabitants. So far from furnishing arguments against the utility of efficient quarantine regulations, we are, through the agency of the quarantine then existing, enabled positively to assert that the seeds of the epidemics of 1822 and 1824 were communicated to this city; the first, from Pensacola, by the sloops *Anna* and *Eliza*; and the second, from Havana, by the schooner *Emigrant*. We find that by a gross breach of the quarantine, which rendered nugatory all its precautions, the disease was, in both these instances, smuggled past the station, and passed up to the city. We are sustained in the declaration that, had the quarantine of 1821 been organized upon correct principles, and had its regulations been rigorously enforced against the towboats and all other

vessels violating its requirements, the epidemics of 1822, '23, and '24 would, in all probability, have never occurred. Let us hear no more, then, of the experiment of a quarantine having been tried at New Orleans, and of its having proved a failure.

No. 9.

Of the epidemics of 1822, 1823 and 1824 in this city, considered in my last, only that of 1823 was communicated to Natchez so as to produce an epidemic. Yet Dr. Monette was well convinced that, during the years 1820, 1821, and 1822, and especially in 1823, there were several deaths from the disease in Natchez, which were traced to merchandise received there from New Orleans, and to persons who visited the city on business, and were attacked on their return.

The epidemic of 1823 in Natchez, was considered the most terrific that ever visited that city, or any other one of its population. It commenced late in the month of August, and was introduced by steam-boats from New Orleans. The first cases occurred between the 12th and 20th August. It continued to rage with great mortality until checked by frost near the 1st of November. About three hundred and twenty died of the disease.

As soon as the fever became epidemic at Natchez, all who could, left the city. A number of these took up their quarters at a place called Coonville, and there erected sheds and huts for temporary residence. In a few days the fever appeared among them, and before the lapse of a month, two-thirds of the whole number there had been sick, and one-third had died of the disease.

In 1825, the fever appeared here again.

The epidemic of this year at Natchez began under the hill, among clerks of a commission house, and others near the steamboat landing. Cases began to multiply about the 20th of August. The disease having at length been communicated to the upper town, the citizens generally fled. The number of deaths was about one hundred and fifty. The first cases were traced to intercourse with the steamboat landing.

This year the disease was transmitted to Washington, a village six

miles East of Natchez; which, upon the fever breaking out in Natchez, became crowded with citizens of that place. About sixty died of the disease at Washington, a place described by Dr. Monette as remarkable for the absence of everything like city filth, marsh, miasm, &c.

In the summer of 1829, many Spaniards, flying from Mexico, arrived in this city. Yellow fever beginning to develop itself at the time, they fled to Baton Rouge; but, having been exposed to the infection here, the fever broke out among them there. Many of these fugitives, and a number of the residents of Baton Rouge, died of the epidemic of that year.

The epidemic was communicated in the usual way, and at the usual time to Natchez, that year; the disease did not spread however. It is described as the mildest epidemic of yellow fever ever experienced there.

During the time between 1829 and 1837, but two epidemics of yellow fever are recorded as having occurred in New Orleans,—those of 1831 and 1833. They appear to have been moderate in their career.

The first cases of the memorable epidemic of 1837, occurred on board of vessels in port from the West Indies. It was characterized by great malignity, and the mortality was great.

The epidemic of this year was communicated to Baton Rouge, Plaquemine, Opelousas and Natchez, subsequently to its appearance here.

The first cases at Natchez appeared about the 8th or 10th of September, and by the 15th of September it was considered epidemic. The disease continued to spread in that city until checked by a frost, which occurred on the 25th November. The number of deaths from this epidemic was about two hundred and eighty. For several years previous to 1837, the Natchez Hospital (the approaches to which are through the centre of the city,) had been closed against the sick from steamboats, and during this time there had been no epidemic there. But a year before the Mississippi Legislature had made provisions for throwing open the Hospital to the indigent sick. This law was in full operation when the fever of 1837 broke out at Natchez; and, after the first of August, scarcely a day passed without the reception, at this Hospital, of one or more yellow fever patients, from boats direct from New Orleans.

The epidemic of 1839 was wide spread and terrible in its effects;

it constitutes a memorable epoch in the history of this malady. Its rise and progress, to the close of its fatal career, were carefully observed and noted by Dr. Monette, in his ably written work already referred to. As this is one of the few instances that have come to our knowledge, where the subject of yellow fever, considered in connection with one of the most remarkable visitations of the disease that ever occurred, attracted the close attention it deserves, and as the result is conclusive in proving the transmissibility of the malady, we propose to notice this epidemic at some length. With this object, we avail ourselves of the lucid account referred to, an abstract of which follows :

Yellow fever never has prevailed epidemically, at the same time, in so many seaports and inland trading towns of the United States, as it did in the summer of 1839. Scarcely one of these seaports, having commercial intercourse with the infected ports of the West Indies, or of Mexico, escaped the fever; and almost every inland town, having direct and unrestricted commerce with these seaports after they became infected, became infected also.

The first appearance of the disease was invariably in the seaports; and the first cases were as invariably among the shipping, especially those from infected West India or Mexican ports. In every instance, the disease existed for weeks among the shipping, before it spread among the inhabitants. In no port in the United States was a case seen, until after it had been prevailing for weeks in the West India and Mexican ports.

The yellow fever began to rage at Havana, Vera Cruz, Matanzas, St. Jago, and other West India and Mexican ports, early in May. It became epidemic before the 1st of June. It began to decline, at Havana in the latter part of August, and at Vera Cruz about the middle of October.

At Charleston, S. C., on the 7th June, three cases of fever were reported to be on board of the brig *Burmah*, just arrived from Havana. Two of these cases died next day. On the 10th, other cases were reported on board of other vessels. On the 12th, the *Briganza* arrived from Havana, with several yellow fever cases on board. On the 1st July—other vessels with fever on board having arrived in the mean time—the sickness spread rapidly among the shipping. About the 10th July, the disease began to extend among the people near the wharves, and in ten days after, it prevailed over the city.

As soon as the fever became epidemic in Charleston, all the inhabitants who could leave the city immediately fled, and for the most part to Augusta, *where yellow fever never had existed before*. During the latter part of July, a few of these fugitives died of the fever at Augusta. On the 20th of August the disease had become epidemic there.

For some fifteen or twenty days before the appearance of the fever at Augusta, and for as long a period after it had appeared epidemically at Charleston, the disease made its appearance at Savannah. As vessels from the West Indies, as well as fugitives from Charleston, had arrived at Savannah before the fever broke out there, it is uncertain to which of these causes it was ascribable.

About this time, an infected vessel from Havana arrived in Portland, Me., after losing several of her crew on the voyage. Several deaths by yellow fever soon after occurred in that place, in persons belonging there, who had been on board this vessel while at the Portland wharf.

The disease made its appearance at Mobile this year among the shipping, simultaneously with the same disease here. In both places the first cases were among the shipping. It continued to spread until the 20th of October, when it began to abate. On the 1st of November the disease was considered extinct.

Let us now note the rise and progress of the disease at New Orleans. Vessels from Havana arrived almost daily during the season. About the last of June, several cases of yellow fever were discovered among the shipping in port from the West Indies, particularly among those from Havana. Towards the close of July, cases among the shipping increased, and by the 1st August, about twenty-five cases had been received in the Charity Hospital. By the 12th of August, it was spreading among the resident population near the wharves. On the 15th of August it was admitted to be epidemic, and strangers were advised by the authorities to leave the city. The disease spread with great violence and rapidity over a large portion of the city near the wharves. The early victims were laborers, draymen, clerks, merchants, and others, whose business brought them on board or in the vicinity of infected vessels. From this time until the close of the epidemic, the Charity Hospital, that unerring chronometer of public health, was crowded with fever patients. The angel of death was manifested in every part of our devoted city.

This summer was unusually hot, dry and calm. Up to the time when the fever began to increase, the population of the city, resident and transient, never were more healthy at any season of the year. The press only echoed public opinion, in congratulating the city upon the prospect of a healthy season, and the "*absence of local causes of the disease.*" But by the 15th August, these prospects were blasted, and, at the instance of the authorities, the unacclimated to the number of some thousands, immediately left the city, and spread themselves over the country, and in the towns and villages within 300 or 400 miles of New Orleans.

In my next, I propose noticing the extension of this epidemic to the towns on the Mississippi and Red rivers, the Lake shore, and the interior of Louisiana. From this I intend to show, that the disease invariably appeared in those places from twenty to thirty days after it became epidemic here; that the first cases in such places were as invariably traced to this city; that only such towns as had free intercourse by steamboats with the city, were visited by the disease; that close towns, cut off by nature or circumstances from such intercourse, escaped; and that the order in which the towns infected became so, was that of the extent of their commerce and the frequency of their steamboat intercourse with this city. These facts will justify the inference, that in every instance where yellow fever appeared among the people of these towns, it was the result of unrestricted intercourse with this city.

No. 10.

The extension of the epidemic of 1839 from this city to those adjacent, and the towns in the interior, will now be noted:

Pensacola.—The first case that appeared at this place was at the Navy Yard. The subject was a gentleman who had just arrived from New Orleans, and who was sick at the house of Dr. —, of the U. S. Navy. He died with black vomit on the 5th September. The Doctor himself, and a negro man who had nursed the deceased, were simultaneously taken sick with fever a few days after his death. The next cases were other members of the Doctor's family, and several physicians and other persons, who attended on or visited the Doctor while sick. The infection

then spread through the yard; but owing to the precautions taken by those commanding, in checking communication between it and the town, the latter escaped. The Navy Yard is about eight miles from Pensacola.

Donaldsonville.—This place continued healthy until the 1st September. In the meantime, ten or twelve cases of yellow fever had been introduced from New Orleans by the steamboats. About the middle of the month, a number of persons belonging to that place, mostly those who had nursed and attended the sick from the city, contracted the disease. Before frost appeared, thirty persons had died besides the first imported cases.

Plaquemines.—This place was free from any disease until after several yellow fever patients had been landed by the boats from New Orleans. The disease was communicated to others who had not been exposed to any other source of infection. Twelve or fifteen of the inhabitants of the place died of yellow fever.

Baton Rouge.—There is a shoal bar opposite this town, which prevents steamboats from landing at such a low stage of the river as existed at this time. The people, too, refused to receive yellow fever patients into their town. The consequence was, that this place was one of the few in the neighborhood of New Orleans *which entirely escaped the epidemic of 1839.*

Port Hudson.—During the month of September, the yellow fever was introduced among the merchants, clerks, and laborers of this village, and about fifteen of them died. A number of people from the country contracted the disease by coming into the town, several of whom died after their return home.

Waterloo.—A number of the inhabitants of this place having imprudently visited New Orleans while the epidemic was raging, contracted the disease, and upon their return home, were taken sick. Several others, who were not exposed to any other source of infection, were also seized with the malady. The whole number of deaths at this place was about fifteen.

Bayou Sara.—Soon after the yellow fever became epidemic in New Orleans, an infected district was created near the steamboat landing at this place, in consequence of the introduction of persons sick of the fever from steamboats bound up the river. The disease subsequently spread among the resident population. It was also communicated to a number

from the country, who had not been exposed to any other source of infection. About twenty persons died in this town and its vicinity.

Fort Adams.—The yellow fever was introduced into this town in the same way that it was introduced into Bayou Sara. It assumed an epidemic form late in September, and about twenty deaths occurred before it was checked by frost.

Natchez.—This city was very healthy for thirty days preceding the introduction there of yellow fever. During this period, the disease had been epidemic in New Orleans. Passengers and merchandise continued to arrive in the meantime without restriction. At length, about the 22d of September, the disease took an epidemical form, and spread with great fury. A large proportion of the inhabitants immediately fled to the surrounding country for protection, and by the 28th, the population was reduced to 800 or 900 souls. Yet before the epidemic received a check in the middle of November, 235 persons, including three practicing physicians, had died.

Washington, Miss.—When the yellow fever appeared in Natchez, a large number of its inhabitants fled to Washington. During the epidemic of 1825, this little town had suffered severely from an unrestricted intercourse with Natchez, at that time suffering under a visitation of fever. The town authorities, recollecting this, took measures to protect their own citizens. They forbade the introduction from Natchez either of yellow fever patients or beds, bedding, persons, merchandise, &c. By these and other prudent precautions, they preserved themselves from a visitation of fever.

Vidalia.—This very beautiful town, situated about a mile from Natchez, on the opposite side of the river, entirely escaped this year. It has never been visited by yellow fever, although Natchez has frequently been decimated by the disease. Vidalia undoubtedly owes its exemption solely to the circumstance that it has no steamboat communication with New Orleans.

Vicksburg.—This city was never before this year visited by yellow fever. It continued, on this occasion, free from the disease, until after Natchez had become so thoroughly infected and desolate, that the upward bound boats ceased to make landings there, and passed on to Vicksburg, as their first principal landing, above New Orleans. In the second week in October, the lower part of the city, at the foot of the bluff, began to be very sickly, and several deaths occurred every day until the last of

the month, when for a part of the time, there had been as many as seven deaths a day. The mortality of the disease was greatly increased by the faculty of that place mistaking it for *congestive fever*. It continued its ravages until checked by a frost, during which time about fifty persons fell victims to it.

Grand Gulf.—This town had free intercourse with all ascending boats which chose to land, and freely admitted the sick. In consequence, about twenty deaths occurred from the disease, and it was increasing in extent and virulence, just as it was arrested by frost. The appearance of these cases in Grand Gulf was simultaneous with those in Vicksburg, and occurred only after boats ceased to land at Natchez.

We will now briefly notice the disease as it prevailed in the towns on Red River, and on the Bayous West of the Mississippi and South of Red River.

Alexandria.—This place was very healthy for some time after the fever became epidemic in New Orleans. It was at this time the head of navigation on Red River, and swarmed with emigrants for Texas. A few cases of fever had been landed from steamboats from the city; every thing portended an epidemic, when an unusual rise of Red River transferred the head of navigation to Natchitoches, and for a time the danger was escaped. About the 1st of September, the River subsided; Alexandria became again the head of navigation; cases of fever were landed from Steamboats; the disease communicated to the town; became epidemic about the 20th of September, and before a frost occurred, 105 of the inhabitants were carried off by the disease. A number from the country who imprudently visited the town during the sickness, contracted the disease and died.

Natchitoches.—The cases at this place were comparatively few, and were confined to those who arrived from New Orleans with the infection in their systems. These occurred during the month of August, while the rise in Red River, above referred to, continued. Natchitoches has never been visited by an epidemic of yellow fever, owing, it is believed, to the rapids near Alexandria, which serve as an excellent natural quarantine during epidemics here.

Thibodauxville.—The first cases which appeared at this place were in persons recently from New Orleans. During the months of Sep-

tember and October, about twenty-five cases appeared, of which fifteen died.

Franklin.—A number of fugitives from the fever in New Orleans arrived at this place about the 1st of September, in the steamer *Tomichichi*. The disease was subsequently developed in the persons of several of these passengers, who communicated it to the inhabitants. Several persons belonging to Franklin, having visited the boat, were afterwards taken sick and died. Among these were the clerk of the court and Mr. Henry Thompson. During the sickness of the latter, he was attended by the family of a Mr. Birdsall. They were all taken ill, and several of them died. The neighbors, too, who visited Mr. Birdsall's family, were all taken sick, and the disease throughout could be traced by infection from one case to another. The fever was considered epidemic after the 15th of September, and did not cease till checked by frost, early in November. The number of cases was about forty-five; of deaths, twenty-five.

New Iberia.—A young physician of this place having died of yellow fever at Plaquemine, his remains were brought to New Iberia for interment by his friends. The body was placed in the village church, where it remained, surrounded by the inhabitants of the village, while the services of the dead, according to the Catholic religion, were celebrating. Many of those who witnessed the ceremony were soon afterwards taken sick with yellow fever, and they communicated the disease to others. About twenty of the inhabitants of this place died of the malady.

St. Martinsville.—Several cases were introduced from New Orleans.

Opelousas.—This place is remote from any navigable stream, and the nearest steamboat landing is six miles distant. It was visited during the summer and fall of 1839, by a number of people from New Orleans, however. Some of these were taken sick after their arrival, and at length the disease spread among the inhabitants. During the epidemic at this place, forty-seven died, of whom seventeen were natives of the place.

The fever was introduced from this city on that occasion into Biloxi, Bay of St. Louis, St. Joseph's, Tampa Bay; and Galveston, Texas; and from the latter to Houston.

No. 11.

After the accumulated proofs which have been adduced of the contagiousness and transmissibility of yellow fever, it will not be deemed necessary to burden your columns with the additional evidence of those facts which almost every year since 1839 has to a greater or lesser extent afforded. Suffice to say, that the more prominent instances of such visitations here, for the last thirteen years, are traceable to a West Indian or Mexican origin; and that their spread to neighboring towns and cities, as high up as Memphis, developed no fact at variance with those elicited on former occasions of the kind, nor anything irreconcilable with the deductions we have drawn from them. This branch of the subject will therefore close with a few remarks regarding the initiation here of yellow fever in 1847, and of cholera in 1848; and a glance at the prominent instances of the transmission of yellow fever to Europe.

Early in May, 1847, yellow fever prevailed at Havana, Vera Cruz, and other West India and Mexican ports. Between the 1st of May and the 31st July there arrived here from these ports about 350 vessels. Of these, about 200 were from Vera Cruz, some 40 or 50 from Havana, and the remainder from other inter-tropical ports. Of those from Vera Cruz, about 100 arrived in May, and about 50 each in June and July. Of those from Havana, some 20 arrived in May, and about 15 each in June and July. The progress of our arms in Mexico had opened the port of Vera Cruz to our commerce. Hundreds of sick soldiers were sent thence to this city, which was the depot of their discharge.

These vessels from Vera Cruz originated the epidemic of 1847. Among their passengers were many sick with the fever. They discharged exclusively at the wharves of the Third Municipality and of Lafayette. The disease first appeared among our citizens in these parts of the city, where it was considered epidemic for two weeks before it prevailed generally in the heart of the town.

I feel perfectly sure that very many cases of yellow fever were brought from Vera Cruz to this city that year as early as the latter part of May. Not anticipating that the proofs of this statement would be worth preserving, I made no record of such cases at the time, and however well convinced I am of its correctness, I do not press it on the reader.

But the first case of that year of which I have authentic information, was that of a man named John Strider, who arrived here on the U. S.

steamer *Massachusetts*, on the 16th June, 1847, and who died with all the symptoms of yellow fever strongly developed, and with hæmorrhage and black vomit.

During the summer of 1848, accounts from Europe spoke of the existence of cholera there. It existed at that time in different parts of England. On the 11th of December there arrived at this port the British ship *Queen of the West*, forty-five days from Liverpool, with three hundred and ninety steerage passengers, and the ship *Swanton*, thirty-nine days from Havre, with two hundred and eighty steerage passengers. Scarcely had the ships moored at the wharves, the *Queen of the West* in the lower part of the city, and the *Swanton* above, when the rumor spread from mouth to mouth that the cholera was raging on board of these vessels: that from this cause they had lost a large number of their passengers on the passage, and that several were still sick on board. On the 13th of December, the Board of Health authorized the statement that the disease on board of these vessels was not cholera, and that "there was no cause for the slightest alarm." On the same day, Mr. Richard Rust, the Inspector of the Customs assigned to the *Swanton* the day previous, was taken sick with cholera and had a narrow escape for his life. A special meeting of the Board of Health, held on the 14th, declared that the cases of sickness were merely cholera morbus, and that "the public had nothing to fear from these cases." On the 19th, one of the city papers stated "that the faculty were not agreed as to whether there had been a single case of veritable Asiatic cholera in the city." On the 20th, about eighty having died the day previous of the disease, the Board of Health, by published resolutions, recognized the existence of cholera in the city, and recommended that lime be thrown in the yards and gutters. The disease having increased until the mortality was about one hundred a day, it was declared by the faculty to be of "local origin." To this decision the Bee refused to assent. "Heaven knows," observes that paper of the 30th December, "the climate of New Orleans is in sufficiently bad repute without casting upon it such an additional reproach."

The pestilence thus introduced spread until it pervaded the whole city, and continued in its fearful mission of suffering and death during the whole winter and until the opening of the summer of 1849.

This visitation of cholera, when considered in connection with the ap-

pearance of the same disease in the vicinity of New York at the same time, is not without its arguments in favor of a quarantine. Nine days before the malady was introduced here, as above stated, the packet ship *New York* arrived at New York from Liverpool, having on board three hundred and forty-five passengers, a large number of whom were found sick with the cholera. This vessel, and others that subsequently arrived with the same malady on board, were rigidly quarantined. Dates from New York of the 9th, informed us that the cholera had arrived there, but that it did not spread, "being confined to the passengers at the quarantine." Thus while the disease in New Orleans was sending a hundred per day to their graves, and blasting the business prospects of the season, it spent its fury at New York on those only who brought it there. While here, the malady was regularly introduced into the city, (literally under the auspices of those specially charged with the public health,) where it revelled in the work of death for nearly six months—there it was chained to the quarantine station until the succeeding spring. The business of New York suffered no injury from the appearance on that occasion of cholera at their gates. The winter of 1849 in New Orleans might well be erased from the calendar of trade, for twenty millions of dollars would not indemnify her for the pecuniary loss she sustained through the cholera of that year.

Cholera, for aught that is known, may defy human efforts to put an effectual stop to its subtle advances. I am without the means either of ascertaining how far the agency of quarantines has been successful in staying this disease, or of noting its introduction into countries with or without such safeguards to health, and observing the difference. Thus far its course has seldom been marked by wide deviations from the channels of trade. Hence we may infer that it is transmitted from place to place, following the complex ramifications of commerce. If this be correct, it is probable its progress might be entirely stopped by rigid measures of non-intercourse. In 1832, the New York authorities were successful in repelling its introduction by sea. They did not guard against its approach by land; and to Quebec it was eventually indebted for the epidemic of that year. I think I am justified in assuming, that had we had a quarantine here in 1848, such as that in existence at New York, the cholera of that year might have been kept beyond our limits; and that the absence of such an insti-

tution there at the close of the year 1848, might have been followed by consequences as generally disastrous as those which afflicted our city.

Those who believe in the "local origin" of yellow fever, and who deny its contagiousness and transmissibility, nevertheless give countenance to the opinion that it is an American disease. They have even denominated it the American plague, in contradistinction to the European disease of that name. If these views are correct, how are we to account for the frequent appearance of yellow fever in European ports, and its spread thence to cities in the interior. History is silent as to the existence of such a disease on the Eastern side of the Atlantic prior to the close of the seventeenth century. Yet from that time until a comparatively recent period, its ravages in European ports, and particularly in those of Spain and Italy, were frequent and terrible, and in some instances stand without a parallel for mortality on this side of the ocean. Let us point out a few of the most remarkable of these visitations.

The first instance of its appearance in Europe was in 1694, when it was carried from the West Indies to Rochefort, a seaport in France. In 1741, it was introduced from the West Indies into Malaga and Cadiz. In 1800, the fever again visited Cadiz, introduced there by three vessels from Havana, one of them the American corvette *Dolphin*; and from Cadiz it was communicated to the cities of Seville, *España*, *Ubrique*, *Moron*, *Puerto Real*, *Rota*, *San Fernando*, *Port St. Maria*, *Arcos la Rambla*, *Le Briza*, *Las Cabezas de San Juan*, *Carlotta*, *Xeres de la Fronterra*, *San Lucar*, *Carmona*, *Carolina*, *Louisiana* and *Cordova*. In 1804, the Spanish ship *Anna Maria*, from Havana, arrived at Leghorn via Cadiz and Gibraltar, with yellow fever on board. It spread to all parts of Leghorn. The same year the malady was communicated in the same manner to Cadiz, whence it was transmitted to *Ximania*, *Los Barrios*, *Port St. Maria* and *Rota*; and to Malaga, whence it spread to *Espejo*, *España*, *Ronda*, *Arcos la Rambla*, and *Xeres de la Fronterra*. In 1819, it was again introduced into Cadiz by vessels from Havana, and from Cadiz to Seville, *San Fernando*, *Port St. Maria*, *Rota*, *Xeres de la Fronterra* and *St. Lucar de Barrameda*. The last and most awful instance of its appearance in Spain was at Barcelona in 1821. On the 19th April of

that year, a convoy of fifty-seven sail left Havana for different ports of Spain. Of these, 24 arrived at Barcelona in June and July, 10 of them having yellow fever on board. It was soon communicated to the city, and notwithstanding the flight of one-half of the inhabitants 17,000 of those who remained became its victims. Outward bound vessels having received the infection, it was communicated from Barcelona to Cadiz, Malaga, Tortosa, Mahon and Rota; from Cadiz to Port St. Maria and Xeres de la Fronterra; from Port St. Maria to San Lucar de Barrameda and Sebrija; and from Malaga to the French port of Marseilles. The disease having been communicated to this city by the Danish brig Nicolina, it soon became epidemic. The authorities, with the assistance of the military, promptly insulated the city, stopped all communication between it and the country, confined the disease to its original limits, and thus prevented its spread to other towns of France.

After this last terrible visitation, the government of Spain established new and much more stringent quarantine regulations; and what was more important, caused the new code to be faithfully administered. Italy, and most of the nations bordering on the Mediterranean followed the example thus set them. Among other regulations of this sanitary code, it is provided that from the 30th of April to the 30th of September, all vessels from healthy ports of America, though free from sickness, shall be detained in quarantine 14 days; and those from sickly ports, or having dangerous maladies on board, shall ride a quarantine of 40 days. The result of these new regulations is, that since the year 1822, there has not been an epidemic of yellow fever in those countries.

No. 12.

Having given the leading facts and arguments in support of the opinions that yellow fever does not originate here, and that its appearance among us is always traceable to our commerce with inter-tropical ports, the subject may close with a brief statement of the views regarding the disease which are held in common by a large number of the most eminent medical men of this country and of Europe, and

the considerations which should be kept in view in the creation and organization of a quarantine for New Orleans.

The medical men referred to unite in the following opinions concerning yellow fever:

That it is "a disease *sui generis* and peculiar, and not a grade or type of billious fever, as is shown by the fact that, as in the plague, measles, small-pox, and other specific and infectious diseases, one attack diminishes the liability to and almost exempts from a second attack; while it in no way diminishes the liability to bilious fevers at all; neither do attacks of bilious fever of the severest grades in any manner diminish the liability to take the yellow fever."

That the infection of yellow fever is "an invisible, inodorous and ærial poison, which cannot be perceived by any of the senses, nor be detected by any chemical analysis."

That it is indigenous to certain ports and places in the West Indies and on the coast of America within the tropics.

That it cannot be indigenous to any place where a freezing temperature is annually experienced.

That marsh, miasm, city filth, &c., &c., have no agency in the creation of the disease, though such agents may possibly increase its dissemination and virulence.

That it is eminently contagious and transmissible.

That its existence in ports of the United States is owing exclusively to commercial intercourse with ports and places where the disease is indigenous, the former being liable to infection in the precise ratio of their proximity to, and their unrestricted intercourse with the latter.

That the imperfections of medical science having placed the disease beyond control, no other alternative is left but to shut out its introduction from abroad.

That experience has fully demonstrated the efficacy of the quarantine, when properly organized and faithfully administered, in guarding the inhabitants of our chief commercial cities from the inroads of the disease.

That yellow fever requires for its transmission a moderate summer temperature, and an accumulation of people, as soldiers in barracks, the crew of a vessel, the population of a town, &c.

And, that the infection may be disseminated by the introduction of

persons sick with the disease, and by the air from infected places, whether conveyed in the holds of vessels, in boxes or bales of merchandise, particularly woolen goods, or in the clothes, bedding, &c., which have been used by persons sick with the disease.

There can be no mediocrity in the organization of a quarantine. If it does not interpose an insurmountable barrier between the healthy and the infection, it is worse than useless. A quarantine for this city should be established at some point on the opposite bank of the Mississippi as low down as Fort Jackson. The ground should embrace an area comprised within some six hundred feet front on the river and a like depth, and enclosed by a high wall. On this space should be erected an Hospital, capable of accommodating 500 patients; a building or buildings equal to the comfortable reception of one thousand persons in health, detained in pursuance of quarantine regulations; wharves and warehouses of sufficient capacity to receive the cargoes of vessels from infected ports; and the residences and offices for the officials of the establishment.

The quarantine should be kept in operation throughout the year. The ship fever, typhus fever, cholera, small-pox, and other pestilential diseases which have hitherto had an unquestioned *entrée* into the city by the thousand per year, would occupy the time of the quarantine officials, during the intermissions of yellow fever. It should operate against all vessels, directly or incidentally from inter-tropical ports, and to their complete exclusion from the city from the 1st of May to the 1st of November. It should take effect against vessels from other ports, domestic or foreign, where pestilential diseases prevailed or on board of which such diseases were found, and subject them to such detentions, or precautionary measures as the quarantine officers may deem necessary. The regulations should look to a complete non-intercourse between the station and the city, except under circumstances that precluded the possibility of the transmission of contagion. Towboats should be prohibited, under heavy penalties, from boarding vessels from infected ports; and while in town, they should moor at a point some distance above or below the city. Persons detained at the station should be prevented from proceeding to the city, until permitted so to do by the authorities of the quarantine. No communication should be allowed between the inmates of the station

and those from without. The quarantine regulations should be rigidly enforced; the fines for the infraction of these regulations should be heavy, and should operate as a first privilege against the vessels that incurred them. The principal official should be invested with authority to administer oaths; and a resistance of their legal commands should subject the offenders to fine and imprisonment.

There should also be established a quarantine station upon a smaller scale, near the entrance of the Rigolets, to be in operation from the 1st May to the 1st November, and to guard against the occasional introduction of disease in that direction, as in the year 1822.

The first cost of such an establishment would not be much less than \$250,000, and the annual expense from \$30,000 to \$40,000. It must be borne in mind, that the proposed institution would relieve the Charity Hospital of most of the patients who are now sent there sick with infectious maladies—these being estimated at nearly one-half of the number that are received within its precincts—and that the amount thus saved from the expenses of the one institution would contribute largely to the support of the other.

“The advantages and disadvantages of a quarantine to the city of New Orleans,” are so forcibly, yet concisely stated by Dr. Carpenter, that they may be given in his own words:

“Quarantine is intended to facilitate the operations of commerce, and its restrictions, operating to the inconvenience of but a small number, have the effect of permanently benefiting the whole.

“The interruptions of commerce, resulting from the establishment of a quarantine at New Orleans, would be confined to a few vessels, and these generally of the smaller class, engaged in trade with the West Indies. Even these would be interrupted only in their summer voyages to some tropical ports; not being allowed to approach the city nearer than the quarantine ground, and causing them to discharge their freight there, for which every facility should be afforded. It is very doubtful whether on the part of the vessel, such an arrangement would cause a moment’s delay; and therefore the delay would only be on the part of the consignees, whose freight would be detained from three to seven days, if it were deemed necessary to ventilate it before its entrance into the city.

“Quarantine for New Orleans, by rendering the city healthy, would

obviate the necessity which now exists, of enforcing quarantine against our vessels during the summer, in New York, Philadelphia, and other ports where there are sanitary regulations. And these delays are more injurious, perhaps, to this city than would be the entire destruction of our West India trade.

"By rendering our city healthy, it would become a permanent abode, instead of the mere winter quarters of its citizens, and millions of dollars now expended in travel abroad, would be saved the city. Changes would be gradually effected, and very soon we should have introduced all the modes of recreation adapted to the summer season, and our city would become a place of resort in summer, instead of the habitation of pestilence.

"Now, who is so blind to every sense of justice and humanity as to compare the trivial inconvenience resulting from the delay of a few persons, or a small quantity of freight, for only a few days, to the desolating catastrophe, the great public calamity, of an epidemic of yellow fever? Who is there that will confess himself the advocate of a system that values at so insignificant a price the lives of our citizens?

"The unimportant inconvenience to which a very small portion of our trade would be subjected during a few months in the year, would be much more than counterbalanced by the immense advantages which our commerce with the important mercantile portions of the world would derive during the same period from the arrangement. And it can scarcely be doubted by the reflecting mind, that the prosperity and pecuniary interest of all would be advanced by the exemption of our city from the great public distress, the irreparable disasters and terrors of pestilence.

"But this protection would not be confined to New Orleans, or its citizens. Every town on the banks of the Mississippi, every village in our State, and every person trading with, or visiting these towns, would feel its happy influence, in certain security from the invasions of this foreign pestilence." * * * * *

"The expense of the quarantine establishment would be but trifling compared with the vast advantages we might expect to derive from it. The amount paid in New Orleans alone, in yellow fever cases, for physicians' bills, medicine and funeral expenses, during an epidemic season, would ten times over support the most expensive quarantine establishment in the world."

No. 13.

I trust that the establishment of a quarantine for the port of New Orleans will be a leading object with the next Legislature of this State. Indeed, from the decided tendency with public opinion, both in the city and country, has manifested within a short time, favorable to the trial of such an institution, I feel assured that the subject will engage the early and earnest attention of our law makers.

It is the desire nearest the heart of every citizen of New Orleans, that yellow fever should, if possible, be banished forever from our limits. It is the prevailing wish that any and every means likely to effect this object, may be tried. We needed not the fearful evidence furnished day by day by the present terrible epidemic, to place beyond contradiction the facts, that the disease is transmissible and contagious, and that New Orleans is as clearly indebted for it to the West Indies and other inter-tropical regions, as that the river and other towns above are indebted for it to New Orleans. The last number of the New Orleans Medical Review, frankly admits that the origin of the sickness this summer was among the shipping along the levee. Those who have hitherto ascribed the origin of the disease in this city to local causes, now abandon the theory—at least they no longer defend it; while many of their numbers profess a cheerful acquiescence in the general wish that the efficacy of a quarantine shall be promptly and fully tested.

Great as are the natural advantages of this city as a mart of trade—and they are unsurpassed by those of any city on earth—its growth in population, business and wealth, has hitherto been inconceivably retarded from these visitations of yellow fever. Were these natural advantages less than they are, its utter destruction would have been inevitable. But for this one great drawback to its progress, I think I am warranted in the belief, that New Orleans at this hour might aspire to be considered the first commercial city of the Union. This is not the language of exaggeration. It is the natural deduction from facts. During the last fifty years, not less than 60,000 of the flower and strength of the land have fallen victims to yellow fever within the limits of the city. And if we add to this the numbers that have died of the disease in neighboring towns, the total mortality from this dread cause, originating here, would range between eighty and

one hundred thousand. It was not beyond the mark—the recent declaration of a New York editor, that the people who have died here of yellow fever might have built up a State. Now, in view of a fact so intimately connected with everything adverse to a realization of our immense advantages, and to our individual happiness and interests, who shall compute the value of all those elements of civic greatness which have thus been repelled from us, and directed elsewhere—who shall determine what would have been the general proportions of a city, which, in spite of the crushing weight which constantly bears upon its exertions, has, nevertheless, up to this time, kept pace with her sister cities in the march of improvement?

Our fellow-citizens of the country parishes, from a community of interests, as well as of dangers, naturally sympathize with our desire to free the city, and through it themselves, from visitations of yellow fever. I am happy to be enabled to add, that their convictions as to the efficacy of a quarantine in accomplishing so desirable an end, are even more decided than ours. Their experience in relation to the malady has been acquired in small towns and settlements, and under circumstances that enabled them to observe its movements with a precision and certainty, which the multifarious and complicated relations of life in this city, and the policy of suppressing rather than furnishing information of its introduction, render it so difficult to attain. In every instance of its appearance among them, they have always been enabled to trace it to our doors; and they feel that the first step in terminating the evil, is to stop its future introduction here.

Should we unwisely defer prompt action on this subject, and with the passage of the danger, neglect the means of preventing its recurrence, the gloominess of our past history will be reflected in the future, and in still darker and more forbidding hues. The present season of death and suffering has left the impression—burned as it were on our hearts—that any expectation of an alleviation, much more a suppression of the evil by the means heretofore recommended, are worse than idle—that, in spite of all our exertions to abate the curse, each succeeding year will but render it more terrible and unsparing. It is now perfectly clear to the mind of every sensible and unprejudiced man, that, with the ideas which have hitherto controlled our sanitary policy, an increase of our commerce must bring with it a correspon-

ding increase in the frequency and the fatality of yellow fever visitations.

Unless we relieve ourselves from this deadly drag on our exertions, it is in vain to expect that we shall keep pace with the rapid development of the immense regions watered by the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio, or that they shall continue to recognize our city as the market for their productions, the depot of their purchases. Those magnificent railroads now in the course of construction—the one tending Westward towards the Pacific, the other advancing towards the Northern lakes, through the heart of the great West—what solid advantages can we expect to derive from works, ordinarily so beneficial, but which under existing circumstances will labor under consequences of what in the absence of the measure recommended, is inevitable—the communication of the pestilence to the regions through which they run. This is an event as certain to follow the opening of these roads, as that ships have communicated yellow fever to our seaports, and that steamboats have transmitted it to our river towns. The people so endangered will naturally surrender trade in the preservation of their lives; but the variety of ways of even now reaching every important point on our seaboard from the interior would render the sacrifice of such commerce only important to us. With such drawbacks on our prosperity, which must increase with the development of national resources, how long shall we be enabled to contend with our sister cities on the Atlantic, all of which are stretch out their iron arms for the trade of the great West—how long we shall be enabled to maintain even our present rank among them, remains to be seen.

Whatever diversity of opinion may continue to exist as to the efficacy of a quarantine in guarding us from yellow fever, there ought to be a general concurrence in the expediency of trying it. All other means of averting the malady, have been tried, without success; and we are left, not merely without relief, but without the hope of relief, except in this way. The advocates of a quarantine are confident that the establishment of one here, at a cost less than that incurred in the paving one of our streets, would forever keep off the pestilence. Were the evidence of its importation less decisive—were the fallacy of its indigenoussness less palpable—were medical opinion

on the subject less divided—were the interests involved less important—the believers in the foreign importation of the disease might claim the co-operation of all who continue to be doubtful, from the simple consideration that doubts on such a subject should incline us to the side of safety. And the man who, while admitting his inability to afford us relief, would prevent us from accepting the relief offered by another, subjects himself to the suspicion of preferring his prejudices or his interests to the manifold public blessings which the exclusion of yellow fever would bring in its train.

Those who cry humbug, folly, &c., at the mention of quarantine, do so either with or without reflection. If the former, it proves they have nothing better to offer. But if the latter, it argues an indifference or recklessness on a subject of incomparable graveness and importance, not very creditable to their moral feelings. It does more than this. It places them in the equivocal position of showing contempt for views which are recognized and acted on by every civilized nation on earth, including nearly all the Atlantic States of this Union. Contempt under such circumstances is only telling in the recoil. The wise man will doubt his own judgment, rather than impeach that of the community. We laugh at the twelfth member of the jury who railed against the obstinacy of his eleven colleagues in the box. But surely the self-sufficient juror is modesty itself compared with those who not only reject the settled convictions of the civilized world, but pronounce them the emanations of wrong-headedness or imbecility.

At the time this series of articles was commenced, the epidemic was at its height. It had not reached the towns on the river and in the interior. In the brief period which has since elapsed, it has, unfortunately, appeared in many of those towns. How far it may spread abroad and around in its fearful mission of death and desolation, as it did in 1839, '41, '47, and in a less degree in some of the intermediate years, time only can tell. It is to be lamented that Natchez, and other towns on the river, that had experienced for years the happy effects of the quarantine policy, should on this occasion have neglected to put it into operation until the disease was in their midst. May a spirit of common sense actuate the inhabitants of those places which are exposed to such visitations, but which as yet remain healthy. Let them place an impassable barrier between themselves and the infection.

Awful as has been the spectacle presented to us by the epidemic of this season—gloomy as is the prospect before us—I feel a presentiment that our past sufferings will be productive of ultimate good, and that New Orleans will never again experience so dreadful a blow. I feel assured that the people of Louisiana, at length aroused to a serious and thorough consideration of the subject, and perceiving the fatal error under which they have so long labored and suffered, will no longer submit to the control which private interest and professional bigotry have so long and so despotically exercised over them.

The succeeding six months will, it is to be hoped, bring about the establishment of a quarantine for this port. In this event, time will fully realize the expectations so generally held regarding it. Thus we shall see exemplified the truth of the following declaration of the French Medical Commission, who reported in favor of the insulation of Marseilles, when the yellow fever was introduced there in 1822: *"Nothing can resist the authority of facts, and the good sense of the public often takes the advance of the hesitations and sophisms of interest and science."*

For the purpose of reference, and to show at a glance the extent and progress of the disease since its first appearance among us, we give the following table carefully corrected from the daily official reports:

Corrected statement of the reports of the interments in all the Cemeteries of the City, from the 22d of May, to 6 A. M., on Sunday, the 4th of September:

		Yellow Fever.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Week ending	May 28.....	1	139	140
"	" June 4.....	1	141	142
"	" " 11.....	4	150	154
"	" " 18.....	7	140	147
"	" " 25.....	9	158	167
"	" July 2.....	25	152	177
"	" " 9.....	59	129	188
"	" " 16.....	204	140	344
"	" " 23.....	429	188	617
"	" " 31.....	692	192	884

Yellow Fever—Its Causes and Consequences.

	Yellow Fever,	Other Diseases,	Total.
Daily—August 1.....	117	25	142
“ 2.....	121	14	135
“ 3.....	129	17	146
“ 4.....	151	25	166
“ 5.....	141	9	150
“ 6.....	208	30	238
“ 7.....	169	40	209
“ 8.....	204	24	228
“ 9.....	172	20	192
“ 10.....	191	33	224
“ 11.....	204	14	218
“ 12.....	182	25	207
“ 13.....	192	22	214
“ 14.....	206	26	232
“ 15.....	187	26	213
“ 16.....	174	19	193
“ 17.....	198	21	219
“ 18.....	197	22	219
“ 19.....	219	15	234
“ 20.....	195	29	224
“ 21.....	245	24	269
“ 22.....	254	29	283
“ 23.....	234	24	258
“ 24.....	199	23	222
“ 25.....	199	19	218
“ 26.....	164	29	193
“ 27.....	159	26	185
“ 28.....	142	26	168
“ 29.....	128	15	143
“ 30.....	125	14	139
“ 31.....	110	27	137
September 1.....	103	16	119
“ 2.....	110	23	133
“ 3.....	96	20	116
“ 4.....	95	15	110
“ 5.....	72	26	98
“ 6.....	70	25	95
“ 7.....	53	17	70
“ 8.....	52	7	59
“ 9.....	47	17	64
“ 10.....	61	19	80
“ 11.....	48	20	68
“ 12.....	40	15	55
“ 13.....	28	19	47
	<hr/> 7,822	<hr/> 2,470	<hr/> 10,292

